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An Invocation: The Sun
Jonathan Sims

OSAGE, THE PEOPLE FROM THE STARS; ORIGIN STORY

Wah-kon-da, the mystery force of the universe, sent the Osage down from the sky to be the caretakers of Earth, which they called the Sacred One. They were the children of Grandfather Sun and, at that time, they were called the Little Ones.

When the Little Ones descended from the sky lodge, they came down in three groups. The first group was the People of the Waters, the *Wah-zha-zhi*; next was the People of the Sky, the *Tzi-sho*; and then came the People of the Land, the *Hunkah*. They named the animals, fish, trees, plants, birds, and also themselves. They named themselves *Ni-U-Ko'n-Ska* which means Children of the Middle Waters.

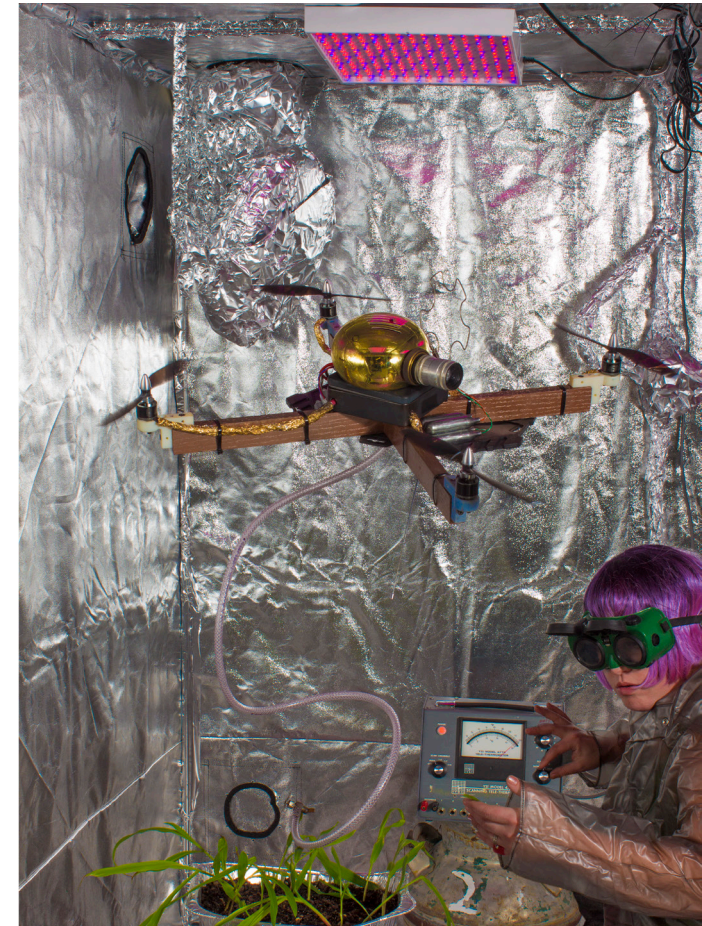
The *Ni-U-Ko'n-Ska* were tasked to find the Isolated Earth Peoples who were indigenous to the Earth. As they set out, the *Wah-zha-zhi* led and were followed by the *Tzi-sho* and the *Hunka* groups.

One day, they came upon a village that was in *Ga-ni-tha* (or chaos). The *Tzi-sho* and *Hunka*, turned away in disgust because they saw death, decay, disease, and waste in the village. This village was what Earth would be like without the influence from the sky.

The Chief of the Isolated Earth People met with the Chief of the *Wah-zha-zhi*. It was then decided that the Isolated Earth People would leave their village and start a new life that was guided by the people from the sky who knew other things besides death and chaos.

The four groups then became one tribe. They divided themselves into two divisions called the *Hunkah* (the Earth people) who represented land and water and the *Tzi-sho*, who were the Sky people. This tribe would fully represent the universe that was made up of sky and Earth and land and water.

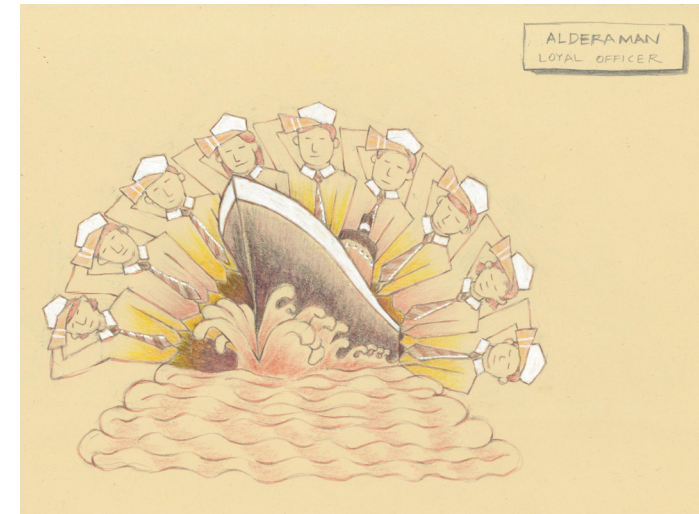
Courtesy of the Osage Nation Museum.



In the Greenhouse
Sarah Engle-Barnett



Jump!Star: North Star Character Sketches—Polaris & Vega
George Ferrandi



Jump!Star: North Star Character Sketches—Alderamin & Thuban
George Ferrandi